

# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



## Crime Victim Services

### Crime Victim Compensation FY2014 Grant Overview

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2407, authorizes the distribution of Crime Victim Compensation funds to designated operational units in each county throughout the state. In accordance with Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R10-4-101 through R10-4-111, Crime Victim Compensation funds are used to provide financial assistance to victims of crime for out-of-pocket expenses incurred as a direct result of the crime. For Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14), ACJC designated the county attorney office in each of Arizona's 15 counties as the operational unit for that county. Operational units are responsible for making compensation awards to claimants using funding allocated to each county based on a formula approved by ACJC. In FY14, ACJC awarded the 15 operational units a total of \$3,892,500 in state and federal funding for the Crime Victim Compensation Program. Programs collected an additional \$505,771.23 in restitution, subrogation, and other revenue available for compensation benefits during FY14. Throughout the year, operational units spent a total of \$4,264,717.87 with \$418,692.82 in state funds being used for operational unit administrative costs. Operational units are required to track expenditure and statistical data and report to ACJC on a quarterly basis. This report summarizes the program activity and expenditure data reported by the 15 operational units during FY14.

### Claims Received by Crime Type and Type of Disposition

If a victimization occurs in Arizona, or if an Arizona resident is victimized abroad, and the victim has incurred an economic loss as a result of the crime, the victim or surviving family may be eligible for compensation through the Crime Victim Compensation Program. In order to determine eligibility, the victim submits an application to the county program in which the victimization occurred. In Arizona, compensation applications are processed and paid at the county level. Once the application is received, the County Compensation Coordinator investigates and substantiates the

claim, and prepares the claim for a hearing before the County Compensation Board. The County Compensation Board hears all claims and makes all eligibility and payment decisions in compliance with Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R10-4-101 through R10-4-111.

Crime Type	Number of Claims Received (FY13)	% of Total (FY13)	Number of Claims Received (FY14)	% of Total (FY14)
Assault	811	49.3%	787	44.9%
Child Abuse	223	13.6%	325	18.5%
Homicide	226	13.7%	248	14.1%
Sexual Assault	79	4.8%	100	5.7%
Other Veh. Crimes	61	3.7%	92	5.2%
Robbery	51	3.1%	52	3.0%
DWI / DUI	29	1.8%	13	0.7%
Kidnapping	9	0.5%	8	0.5%
Stalking	3	0.2%	2	0.1%
Arson	2	0.1%	2	0.1%
Terrorism	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Other Crimes	150	9.1%	124	7.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,754</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

In FY14, the Arizona Crime Victim Compensation Program received 1,754 claims; an increase of 109 claims from last year (Table 1). A little less than half of the claims received were for those victimized by assault (787 claims). In addition, 325 claims were received for child abuse (18.5 percent) the largest category increase from FY13 when there were only 223 claims for child abuse. Also, 248 claims were received for homicide (14.1 percent) and 100 were received for sexual assault (5.7 percent).

Operational units processed 1,740 of 1,754 claims received in FY14. Those not processed were received late in FY14, but not processed until early FY15. Of the

1,740 claims processed, over 80 percent of claims were approved (1,424 claims). A smaller percentage were denied (247, 14.2 percent) and 69 claims were not processed. Claims are denied for reasons outlined in the program rules including absence of a crime under state or federal law, the victim contributed substantially to their own victimization, failure to report the crime, or lack of cooperation with law enforcement. A claim is not processed if the victim withdraws the application or if the application is grossly incomplete, preventing further processing of the application.

## Amount Paid by Crime and Benefit Category

During the course of FY14, the Arizona Crime Victim Compensation Program paid a total of \$3,846,025.05 in benefits to victims, or providers on behalf of victims. This is a small increase from FY13 (Table 2). The highest number of claims were received for assault victims. Correspondingly, assault victims also received the highest payout amount, receiving \$1,925,100.95. Homicide related claims received \$1,060,898.13, victims of vehicular crimes other than DWI/DUI received \$231,404.70, and victims of child abuse received \$204,236.73. A total of \$786,904.01 was paid to victims for domestic violence related crime. While the total amount paid out to victims only increased 1.79 percent from FY13 to FY14 the largest increases can be seen for arson victims (252.41 percent increase) and homicide victims (57.66 percent increase). However, other categories saw decreases, the largest for kidnapping crime victims (54.58 percent decrease) and robbery victims (40.06 percent decrease).

Crime Type	Total Paid (FY13)	% of Total (FY13)	Total Paid (FY14)	% of Total (FY14)
Assault	\$2,251,874	59.60%	\$1,925,101	50.05%
Homicide	\$672,913	17.81%	\$1,060,898	27.58%
Other Veh. Crimes	\$226,858	6.00%	\$231,405	6.02%
Child Abuse	\$189,590	5.02%	\$204,237	5.31%
Sexual Assault	\$125,921	3.33%	\$116,130	3.02%
DWI / DUI	\$70,264	1.86%	\$75,968	1.98%
Robbery	\$117,983	3.12%	\$70,714	1.84%
Arson	\$3,650	0.10%	\$12,863	0.33%
Kidnapping	\$20,939	0.55%	\$9,510	0.25%
Stalking	\$1,938	0.05%	\$1,582	0.04%
Terrorism	\$0.00	0.00%	\$210	0.01%
Other Crimes	\$96,430	2.55%	\$137,407	3.57%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,778,360</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$3,846,025</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Compensation payments can be awarded in six different benefit categories: medical, funeral, mental health, work loss, transportation costs, and crime scene cleanup. Varying limits apply to each category. Medical expenses were the largest expense category paid by the Arizona Crime Victim Compensation in FY14, totaling \$1,989,585.07 (Table 3). Funeral expenses followed with a total of \$837,997.39; \$518,398.62 was paid for work loss; and \$391,812.15 was paid for mental health expenses. From FY13 to FY14, the largest benefit category increase was seen for transportation expenses which increased by 170.85 percent, while crime scene cleanup and medical expenses both decreased.

Benefit Category	Total Paid (FY13)	% of Total (FY13)	Total Paid (FY14)	% of Total (FY14)
Medical	\$2,487,912	65.85%	\$1,989,585	51.73%
Funeral	\$520,132	13.77%	\$837,997	21.79%
Work Loss	\$348,687	9.23%	\$518,399	13.48%
Mental Health	\$379,343	10.04%	\$391,812	10.19%
Transportation	\$39,569	1.05%	\$107,172	2.79%
Crime Scene Cleanup	\$2,718	0.07%	\$1,060	0.03%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,778,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$3,846,025</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Type of Transportation Costs

In February of 2013, changes in the compensation program rules created a separate category for transportation expenses and expanded the category to include reimbursement of travel expenses to court hearings, forensic exams, and relocation costs because of a substantiated safety threat. Transportation costs were already available to attend mental health appointments and medical appointments, and had previously been tracked as expenditures in the related benefit categories. In FY14, the Arizona Crime Victim Compensation Program awarded a total of \$107,171.58 for transportation related expenses, with the highest percentage being paid to reimburse expenses to mental health appointments (\$44,328.56). An additional \$40,345.88 was awarded for expenses to attend court hearings related to the victimization and \$17,295.30 was awarded for expenses to attend medical appointments.

Transportation Cost Type*	Total Paid (FY13)	% of Total (FY13)	Total Paid (FY14)	% of Total (FY14)
Mental Health Appointment	\$20,200	51.0%	\$44,329	41.4%
Court Hearing	\$4,200	10.6%	\$40,346	37.6%
Medical Appointment	\$14,670	37.1%	\$17,295	16.1%
Safety Threat	\$204	0.5%	\$4,583	4.3%
Forensic Exam	\$296	0.7%	\$619	0.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39,570</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$107,172</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Since 2/4/13

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